Brooks-Young, S. (2010). *Teaching with the tools kids really use.* CA:Corwin

The author begins this text with a reflection about education in the United States, “Education may be the most successful institution to emerge from the Industrial Age” (2010, P. 5). This opening statement in *Teaching With The Tools Kids Really Use* represents a reflection by the author that education in the US was a once thriving proposition but the education of the 21st Century is not changing to keep pace with changes that will affect the worldwide workforce. The author poses the question “What are we doing to prepare our students for this new world?” (2010, p.5). This leads the reader into a book that explains what kids are really using and how they should be integrated in to the 21st Century classroom.

Susan Brooks-Young is an author and consultant with more than 23 years of experience as a teacher and administrator. She has also worked with school administrators and teachers internationally on the implementation of instructional technology programs. Some of the areas she specializes in are technology planning, Web 2.0 tools for education, educational technology leadership, and course development and is well known for her contributions to the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). *Teaching With The Tools Kids Really Use* is her latest book written to assist educators with current technology tools and techniques for the K-12 classroom.

*Teaching With The Tools Kids Really Use* is a resource text that can help educators learn more about Web 2.0 and mobile technologies and tools. The tools are integral to classroom instruction in a 21st Century classroom where kids are using technology and the task of today’s teacher is to select appropriate tools and technologies for K–12 settings.The topics covered in the book fall into 3 sections, 21st Century skills, Web 2.0 tools and mobile technologies. Each section gives readers answers to questions in the topic area, common objections to the teaching of the topic, the changing viewpoints, strategies for classroom use of the topic area and practical suggestions on ways to facilitate or implement the topic. Each chapter section is followed by a set of discussion points and specific references for the chapter topic. Each section is set up with the same format so it is easy for the reader to pick a topic area and anticipate that same flow of information.

As we look at 21st Century skills Brooks-Young provides educators with references to three documents that she feels are important for educators to evaluate for up to date information about 21st –Century Skills. They include:

* enGuage 21st Century Skills for 21st Century Students (North Central Regional Educational Laboratory and the Metri Group, 2003)
* National Educational technology Standards for Technology in Education (ISTE, 2007)
* Framework for 21st Century Skills (Partnership for 21st Century Skills, 2009)

These references are the foundation documents for this book and provide the common theme for the contextual ideas presented by the author.

*Teaching With The Tools Kids Really Use* is well written and easy to read. As a reference book it has the potential to be a valuable tool for the classroom teacher to refer to for ideas and perspectives on the technology being used in the classroom. Each chapter includes a variety of references such as books, websites and online reports and articles that are current and provide additional resources for the teacher to evaluate and as they plan technology instruction.